

(b) if so, the criteria for establishing Cottage Hospitals; and

(c) which are the places selected for the Cottage Hospitals in the above two districts.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Visit of high Dignitaries to India

2613. SHRI ANANT DAVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the details of heads of Governments and States and Foreign Ministers of foreign countries who visited India during 1978 and the purpose of their visits;

(b) similar Indian dignitaries who visited foreign countries during 1978 and purpose of their visits; and

(c) the number of such dignitaries who visited at Government's invitation and the invitation still pending for such visits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SAMARENDRA KUNDU): (a) to (c). Statements 'A' and 'B' giving details of such visits in answer to (a) and (b) of the question respectively are laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2987/78] The purpose of such visits is generally to exchange views on important bilateral and global issues, to strengthen friendship and cooperation and to promote international understanding. Specific purpose of some of the important visits of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister are also indicated in list 'B'. Visit of important dignitaries from foreign countries to India is also intended to achieve the same high purpose of forging closer bonds of understanding and cooperation.

So far as 1978 is concerned the Prime Minister of Singapore is due to visit from the 12th of December for five days.

Medical College at Salem

2614. SHRI R. KOLANTHAIVELU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the crying need for a medical college at Salem in Tamil Nadu to cater to the need of students in the surrounding areas;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to set up such college; and

(c) the time frame envisaged for finalising implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). There is no proposal before the Government of India for starting an additional Medical College in Tamil Nadu. This is a matter for the State Government to consider in the first instance.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of a Post Office in Madan Park, New Delhi

2615. SHRI DAJIBA DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for opening a Post Office in Madan Park, New Delhi-110026 has been finalised;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to open the said post office in Madan Park or in the centrally located buildings; and

(c) the time by which the said post office will be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The sanction for opening of a Post Office at Madan Park, New Delhi has been issued on 26-7-1978.

(b) and (c). Tenders for taking on rent suitable accommodation for housing the said office were invited, but no tender was received. Efforts are however, being made to rent suitable accommodation by contacting the residents of that area. The office will be opened as soon as suitable accommodation is available.

Posting of Husband and Wife at one Station

2616. **SHRI K. A. RAJAN:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instruction contained in the circular issued by Department of Social Welfare regarding posting of husband-wife team in the same station is being followed in the Postal Accounts Organization;

(b) if so, the number of requests for posting at one station received from employees having working spouses since 1st April, 1976; and

(c) the number of requests rejected/not granted indicating name of employees, date of request and reasons for rejection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir, to the extent possible.

(b) 28.

(c) Information is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2998/78].

Visit by Steel Minister to Foreign Countries

2618. **SHRI RAM SEWAK HAZARI:** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited Asia, Romania, West Germany and Austria recently;

(b) if so, the purpose of this visit; and

(c) the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) The Minister of Steel and Mines, Shri Biju Patnaik visited the USSR, Romania, Hungary and Federal Republic of Germany between the 10th and 21st October, 1978. He did not visit Austria.

(b) and (c). The purpose of his visit was to discuss matters of mutual interest in order to strengthen our economic and industrial cooperation with these countries. Some of the important subjects discussed included—

(i) Soviet assistance for technological and productivity improvements in the existing Soviet aided steel plants in the country, expansion of the capacity of the Bhilai and Bokaro Steel Plants, establishment of a new shore-based plant at Vishakhapatnam. Detailed Project Report for the proposed Alumina plant in Andhra Pradesh based on East Coast Bauxite deposits and Joint Indo-Soviet Cooperation in third country metallurgical projects; and closer collaboration in respect of development of non-ferrous minerals in India.

(ii) export of iron ore from India to Romania and the possibility of Romanian assistance for a new shore-based integrated steel plant;

(iii) early submission by Hungary of the pre-investment feasibility study